

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559-329001
Intel Corporation

REMARKS

Claims 42-46, 48-54, 56-63, and 64-65 are pending. Claims 42, 50, and 58 are in independent form.

In the action mailed July 28, 2005, claims 42 and 50 were objected to as being grammatically incorrect for reciting "at an authentication service."

Applicant believes that no grammatical or other error is present in this recitation. Nevertheless, to prevent the "authentication service" from being construed as anything other than an "authentication service," claims 42 and 50 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Upon review of the response filed March 16, 2006, Applicant agrees that the Remarks section mistakenly referred to "Sheehan" when discussing "Saito," and vice versa. Applicant thanks the Examiner for his care in noticing the error and for advancing prosecution by proceeding with examination.

Independent Claims 42 and 50

Claims 42 and 50 have been amended to recite subject matter drawn from claims 47 and 55. Claims 47 and 55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,311,163 to Sheehan et al. (hereinafter "Sheehan"), U.S. Patent No. 6,275,941 to Saito et al. (hereinafter "Saito"), and the State of Colorado Senate Bill 97134 LLS No. 970530.01

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(hereinafter "Colorado").

As amended, claim 42 relates to a machine-implemented method that includes storing professional license status information for a plurality of users, an authentication service receiving digital credential information associated with a first user from a relying party, verifying that the digital credential information is valid using the professional license status information, providing verification information indicative of the professional license status of the first user to the relying party, and providing information from the authentication service to the first user, the information indicative of receipt of valid digital credential information from the relying party.

As amended, claim 50 relates to an article comprising a machine-readable medium embodying information indicative of instructions. When the instructions are performed by one or more machines, operations comprising the method of claim 50 result.

The rejections of claims 42 and 50 are based on the contention that Saito's "log-in reject" signal shown in FIG. 5 is information indicative of receiving digital credential information associated with the first user from a relying party, as recited in claims 42 and 50.

However, claims 42 and 50 recite that such information is

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indicative of receipt of valid digital credential information from the relying party. Since Saito's "log-in reject" only indicates that invalid information has been received, Saito's "log-in reject" does not indicate receipt of valid digital credential information.

Neither Sheehan nor Colorado remedy this deficiency in Saito. As discussed in the response filed March 16, 2006, Sheehan fails to describe or suggest providing information indicative of any receipt (valid or otherwise) of digital credential information associated with the first user from a relying party. Colorado is a bill that sets forth requirements for the completion of a prescription. Colorado is entirely silent on any provision of information from an authentication service to the first user, as recited in claims 42 and 50.

Accordingly, elements and/or limitations in claims 42 and 50 are neither described nor suggested by Sheehan, Saito, and Colorado. Hence, the Patent Office has not met the burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 42, 50, and the claims dependent therefrom be withdrawn.

Independent Claim 58

Claims 58 has been amended to recite subject matter drawn from claim 63. Claim 63 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

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as obvious over Sheehan, Saito, and Colorado.

As amended, claim 58 relates to a system that includes storage configured to store professional license status information for a plurality of users and an authentication server. The authentication server is configured to receive digital credential information associated with a first user from a relying party, verify the digital credential information using the professional license status information, provide verification information indicative of the professional license status of the first user to the relying party, and provide information to the first user, the information indicative of receipt of valid digital credential information associated with the first user from the relying party.

The rejection of claim 58 is based on the contention that Saito's "log-in reject" signal shown in FIG. 5 is information indicative of receiving digital credential information associated with the first user from a relying party, as recited in claim 58.

However, claim 58 recites that such information is indicative of receipt of valid digital credential information from the relying party. Since Saito's "log-in reject" only indicates that invalid information has been received, Saito's "log-in reject" does not indicate receipt of valid digital

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credential information.

Neither Sheehan nor Colorado remedy this deficiency in Saito. Sheehan fails to describe or suggest providing information indicative of any receipt (valid or otherwise) of digital credential information. Colorado is entirely silent on any provision of information from an authentication service to the first user, as recited in claim 58.

Accordingly, elements and/or limitations in claim 58 are neither described nor suggested by Sheehan, Saito, and Colorado. Hence, the Patent Office has not met the burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 58 and the claims dependent therefrom be withdrawn.

Applicant asks that all claims be allowed. Applicant believes there are no fees due at this time. If any fees are

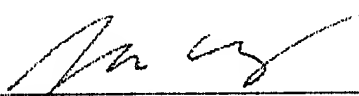
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due, please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account

No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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